

US 93 FISH AND WILDLIFE CROSSINGS

40. Mud Creek #1 Fish & Wildlife Crossing Ronan - Polson Segment

Mud Creek has been the focus of ongoing stream and riparian habitat restoration efforts by the tribes. The area is used by deer, waterfowl, and fish. This crossing would facilitate fish and wildlife movement.

Design Recommendations

Recommended crossing type: *Open Span Bridge*

Approximate dimensions: 40'-70' Span, 12' min. ht.

Notes:

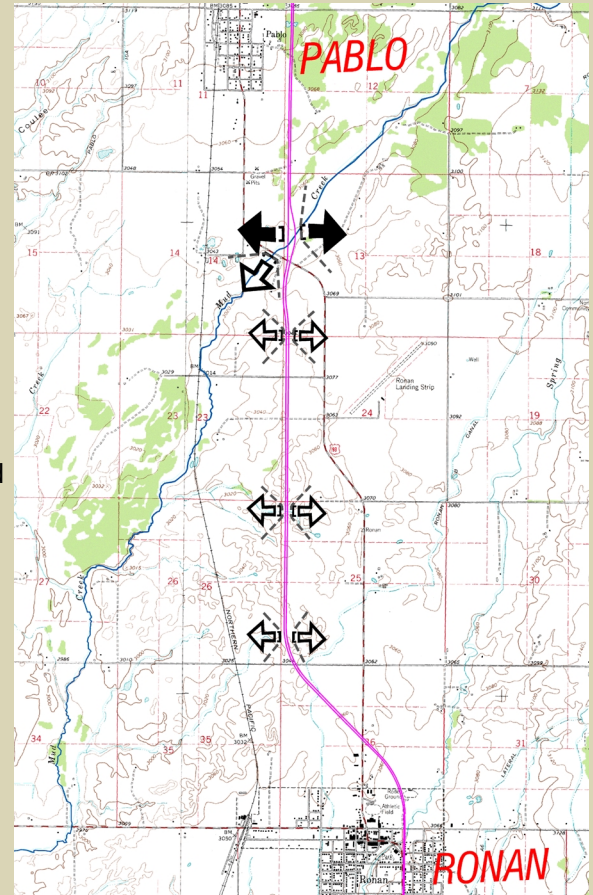
Add 8' page wire fencing in a wing pattern (45 degrees to road and approx. 150' in length) to guide wildlife through crossing. It may be necessary in the future to add continuous fencing from Ronan Canal #1 to Mud Creek if monitoring and mortality rates indicate a need.

Restore stream channel and riparian vegetation as per design guidelines.

Criteria for locations of crossings:

1. **Winter tracking** - NA.
2. **Summer Game Trails** - NA.
3. **Road Kill Data** - Tribal data from 1/95-10/98 combined with MDT data from 12/97-1/00 indicated 5 kills in this area.
4. **Habitat** - Grasslands and riparian habitat.
5. **Engineering**

Practicality - Existing conditions will accommodate an elevated, open-span bridge. This is one of the best potential locations for a wildlife crossing structure in the vicinity.



US 93 DESIGN DISCUSSIONS

Project Committee:

Evarto to Polson, Montana

Montana Department of Transportation

Federal Highway Administration

The Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Nation

Prime Consultant: Skillings-Connolly, Inc. - Consulting Engineers

